

**Rhode Island**  
**Commission for Health Advocacy and Equity**

*“Making strides to address health equity and the elimination of health disparities in Rhode Island”*

April 10, 2013

2:00 pm -4:00 pm

**Commission Notes**

**I) Call to Order**

Meeting called to order by Commission Chair, Dr. Tanya Dailey

**II) December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2012 Meeting Minutes Approval**

Meeting minutes are approved by Commission Members.

**III) Public Comments on Agenda**

No additional comments provided by the public.

**IV) Updates from HEALTH (Ana Novais)**

Personnel Changes:

- Team Lead from the Health Disparities and Access to Care Team vacated her position. The Chief of the Office of Special Health Care Needs, Deborah Garneau, is currently serving an Interim Team Lead. HEALTH has interviewed and recommended two candidates to be hired by Director of Health.
- Chief of the Office of Minority Health vacated his position at his position. Angela Ankoma has been asked to serve at the Interim Chief from the Office. This position has been posted for rehire. Dr. Fine and Chair of the Commission will have input in the hiring of this position. Interviews will begin May and April.
- CLAS Coordinator vacated her position for another in a different state agency. The paperwork has been processed to have this position re-posted.
- Refugee Health Coordinator is out on medical leave for the next 3 months.

Local and Regional Meetings:

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- Ana Novias and Angel Ankoma attended the federal Office of Minority Health Conference in March. The meeting was very informative meeting. There is an upcoming regional meeting for the Regional Equity Council in May.

Commission report will be due August 2014. Although the Commission was formed in July 2011, it will be the 2 years from the date of the first meeting that the report will be due.

Dr. Fine was presented the list of priorities. He agreed but asked the Commission to revisit the priorities to ensure they are achievable within the timeframe identified. Dr. Fine also suggested adding a priority around equal treatment in the health care delivery system and quality of care should be addressed.

### **V) Open Meetings Law (Steve Morris HEALTH attorney)**

Open Meetings Law Review by Attorney Steve Morris.

Key points from this discussion:

- Any governmental group is subject to the open meetings law.
- Subgroup meetings do follow the Open Meetings Law as long as there isn't quorum. Email communication can be sent as well as long it isn't being used to circumvent the law.
- There is an open meeting law video online which can be viewed for further details.
- Ex-Officious are not counted in the quorum as they are liaisons between their respective agencies.

### **VI) Commission workplan and updated timeline**

There is a discussion of Commission subcommittees and the role. If there are more than 7 commission members on a subcommittee, the meetings will be posted and follow the open meetings law.

### **VII) Presentation of Health People 2010 (Ana Novais)**

Healthy People is a national initiative which started in 1979. Indicators are tracked both nationally and on the state level. The Commission has the opportunity to look at what has been accomplished thus far and identify gaps or areas which need further examination. HEALTH is in

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the process of establishing new targets for Healthy People 2020. The Healthy People 2010 report will be completed at the next meeting in June. Healthy People 2020 presentation is attached.

### **VIII) Office of Minority Health updates (Angie)**

- a) Minority Health Month activities: Minority Health Month activities are distributed and shared. Commission Members are encouraged to send activities they'd like share to the Interim Chief of Minority Health. An electronic copy of events will be send to the Commission Mailing list.
- b) Mini-grant awards: OMH will be awarding 7 mini-grants to local community based organizations and groups for the amount of up to \$4,900.00.

### **IX) Commission Priorities Discussion**

Due to the timing of the meeting, this agenda item will be held until the next meeting in August.

### **X) Equity Profile Report Comments (Amanda Martin)**

Sustainable Communities project released a report in February 2013 called the Equity Profile of Rhode Island. The Equity Profile focused on: demographics, economic vitality, readiness and connectedness. The full report can be accessed online at Statewide Planning website:

<http://www.planning.ri.gov/>. There are a number of health connections in the Equity Profile.

### **XI) Action Items/Recommendations to Dr. Fine & Wrap up**

The Commission letter to Dr. Fine from this meeting will recommend that he support and facilitate the closer collaboration between the Commission for Health Equity and Advocacy and Sustainable Communities Project.